

for the rest of your life will think about preserving our past, honoring it, but also will think about imagining the future. What an imagination it took in 1814 to believe that America had a boundless future.

The Continental Congress said when it authorized the first flag of 13 stars that they were "a new constellation." They were right. When I looked at all those children today saying the Pledge of Allegiance, I thought, now we are a newer constellation—different than they could have imagined—racially, religiously. We have no longer a small country on the eastern seaboard, but a continental nation, with the greatest influence for good the world has ever seen and an enormous responsibility for the future.

And that is the last point I would like to make today. You can neither honor the past, nor imagine the future, nor achieve it without the kind of citizenship embodied by all of our memories of the flag. So as you see this flag and leave this place, promise yourself that when your great-grandchildren are here, they'll not only be able to see the Star-Spangled Banner, it will mean just as much to them then as it does to you today.

Thank you, and God bless you.

NOTE: The President spoke at 8:48 a.m. at the National Museum of American History. In his remarks, he referred to I. Michael Heyman, Secretary, Smithsonian Institution; Rebecca W. Rimel, president, Pew Charitable Trusts; Mayor Marion S. Barry, Jr., of Washington, DC; Richard Moe, president, National Trust for Historic Preservation; singer Denyce Graves; and Ralph Lauren, chairman and chief executive officer, Polo Ralph Lauren Corp.

Statement on the Proposed International Monetary Fund Financing Program for Russia

July 13, 1998

I welcome the announcement this morning by Michel Camdessus, managing director of the International Monetary Fund, that he will recommend a new financing program for Russia to the Fund's Executive Board. This new program of Russian policy commitments and international financial support can provide a sound basis for increased stability and

confidence. Strong implementation by the Russian Government of these important reform measures is essential. I continue to believe that a partnership with a stable, democratic, and prosperous Russia is a vital U.S. national interest.

Statement on Brazil's Ratification of the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban and Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaties

July 13, 1998

Today Brazil ratified the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) and acceded to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). I want to congratulate President Cardoso and the Government of Brazil for taking this historic step.

Brazil's decision renews momentum for the international effort to halt the spread of nuclear weapons and promote disarmament around the world. At a time when actions by India and Pakistan threaten a nuclear competition in South Asia, Brazil has chosen a different course—to invest in its people, not in a costly arms race.

Brazil's action today to ratify the CTBT makes it all the more important for the U.S. to do the same. I call on our Senate to act expeditiously to approve the CTBT—already signed by 149 nations and supported by the Joint Chiefs of Staff—so that the United States can lead in this vital endeavor.

Proclamation 7108—50th Anniversary of the Integration of the Armed Services, 1998

July 13, 1998

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On July 26, 1948, with the stroke of a pen, President Harry Truman changed the course of American history. By signing Executive Order 9981, "Establishing the President's Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services," he officially declared that "there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons

in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion or national origin." His action reflected the growing realization by more and more Americans that our Nation could no longer reconcile segregation with the values we had fought a war to uphold.

The United States had emerged from World War II with a new understanding of the importance of racial and ethnic diversity to our Nation's strength and unity. Nazi racism and the horrors of the concentration camps shocked Americans and revealed the true dangers of prejudice and discrimination. Hundreds of thousands of our fellow citizens from many different ethnic and racial backgrounds served and sacrificed in the war. The valor of segregated African American soldiers—from the Tuskegee Airmen and the 761st Tank Battalion to individuals like General Benjamin O. Davis and General Daniel "Chappie" James—could not be ignored. These heroes risked their lives for our country overseas, and yet still faced discrimination here at home. By signing Executive Order 9981, President Truman set America on the path to right this wrong.

We have come a long way in the subsequent 50 years, and the United States Armed Forces have been in the vanguard of our crusade to abolish discrimination in our society. Today our men and women in uniform represent so many aspects of the diversity that has made our Nation great, and they have proved that different people, sharing the same values, can work together as a mighty force for peace and freedom at home and around the world. We still have much to accomplish in our journey to become a society that respects our differences, celebrates our diversity, and unites around our shared values, but we should proudly mark the milestones on that journey and rejoice in the progress we have made thus far.

Now, Therefore, I, William J. Clinton, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim July 26, 1998, as the 50th Anniversary of the Integration of the Armed Services. I call upon all Americans to observe this day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this thirteenth day of July, in the year of our Lord nineteen hundred and ninety-eight, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-third.

William J. Clinton

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., July 14, 1998]

NOTE: This proclamation was published in the *Federal Register* on July 15.

Remarks at a New Democratic Network Dinner

July 13, 1998

Thank you very much. Well, Joe, I agree with Hadassah; this is pretty impressive. I would like to thank all the members who are here, all the candidates who are here, the sponsors of this event, and those of you who have contributed, because this group is going to give the American people a chance to finally and fully ratify the ideas that we have been pursuing the last 6 years.

I want to thank Simon—I did tell Senator Lieberman I thought Simon had given a good talk. One of the things that I always think that all of us should be doing is trying to recruit good young people and lift them up. Simon self-selected—we didn't have to recruit him at all. [*Laughter*] After surviving the War Room in '92, he understands that all you have to do is just sort of stand there and keep going, and it will be all right.

I'm delighted to see so many of you here, so many old friends and some people who are getting involved in this. And I will be a little brief tonight. I rewrote my talk; here it is. Even I can't read it, so it will be less.

Well, I'd like to just kind of recap how this all began. I'll never forget the first time or two I talked to Al From and the first encounter I had with many of you through the DLC, and how strongly we felt that our party, which we had no intention of leaving, was being rendered irrelevant in national elections, partly by being caricatured successfully by the very adroit tactics of our friends in the Republican Party and partly because we seemed unable to break out of